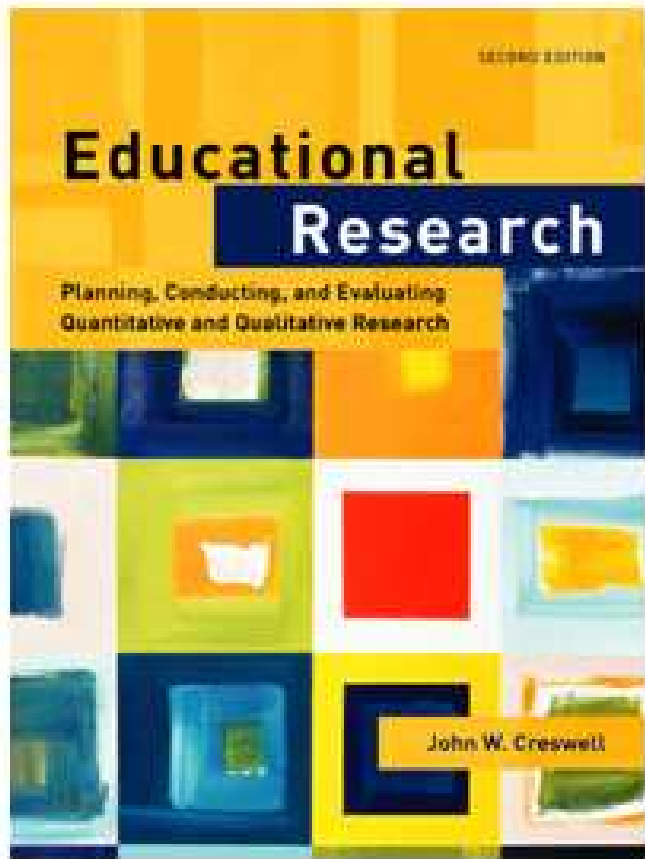


Action Research Overview

For
Graduate Reading Seminar 2010
Summer I & II

About this PPT



- This PPT is a supplement to the book to the left. It is a great overview of Action Research. The PPT was prepared by Ron Shope from Grace University

Links for Action Research

- **Links to Action Research Papers**
http://carbon.cudenver.edu/~mryder/itc/act_res.html
An extensive list of Web links to sites and research papers.
- **Action Research in Information and Learning Technologies**
http://carbon.cudenver.edu/~mryder/itc/act_res.html
From the University of Colorado at Denver. The practitioners in education, social sciences, activism, and corporate learning all utilize action research, but they define it very differently. However, there seem to be commonalities, which are explored on this site. A long list of links to other action research sites is included.
- **Action Research International Online Journal**
<http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/gcm/ar/ari/arihomet.html>
Refereed online journal of action research. The editorial board is global in makeup, showing the worldwide attention to action research.
- **Educational Action Research**
<http://www.triangle.co.uk/ear/index.htm>
Refereed international journal exploring the unity between educational research and practice.
- **Action Research Case Studies**
http://www.aln.org/alnweb/magazine/maga_v3_i1.htm
This magazine site includes five action research case studies.
- **CPARN: Cornell Participatory Action Research Network**
<http://www.einaudi.cornell.edu/cparn/>
A knowledge gateway for practitioners and scholars of action research around the world. Founded in the spring of 1993, PARnet is the oldest action research website on the Internet. Its non-affiliated institutional status and mission to facilitate a comprehensive, community-managed knowledge base give PARnet a unique role in the ever-expanding assortment of action research sources on the Internet.
- **Action Research Defined – Richard Donato, University of Pittsburgh**
<http://www.cal.org/resources/digest/0308donato.html>
This digest of information provides a definition, a framework, and an example for considering action research.

What is action research?

- **Action research** is systematic inquiry done by teachers (or other individuals in an educational setting) to gather information about, and subsequently improve, the ways their particular educational setting operates, how they teach, and how well their students learn (Mills, 2000).

When do you use action research?

- When you have an educational problem to solve
- When educators want to reflect on their own practices
- When you want to address school-wide problems
- When teachers want to improve their practices
- When educators want to participate in a research project

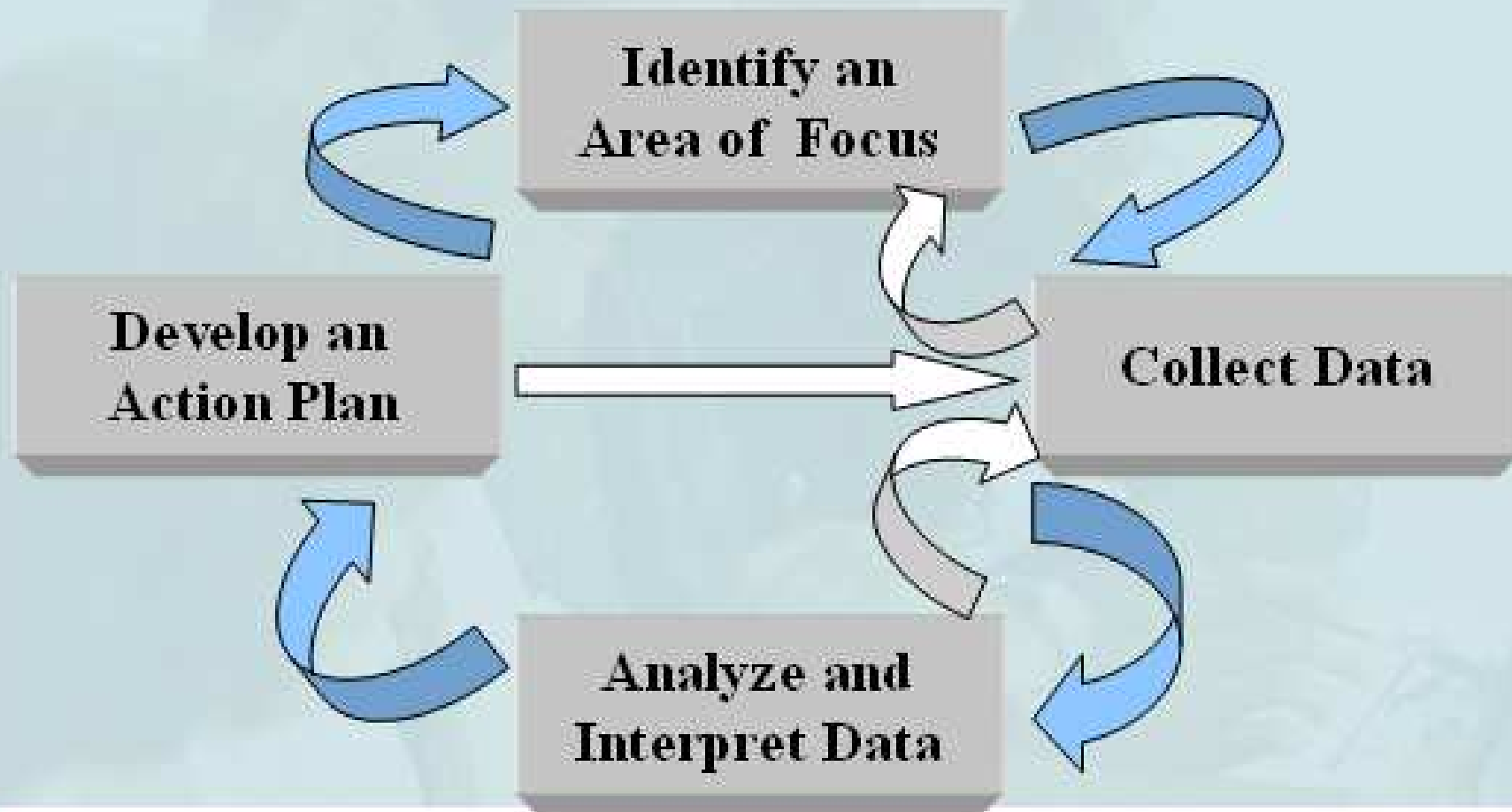
How did action research develop?



Types of action research designs



Practical action research: Mills (2000) Dialectic Research Spiral



Participatory action research

- Deliberate exploration of relationship between the individual and others
- Participatory: people conduct studies on themselves
- Practical and collaborative
- Emancipatory (Challenges procedures)
- Helps individuals free themselves from constraints found in media, language, work procedures, and power relationships
- Reflexive or dialectical – focused on bringing about change in practices

Stringer's (1999) Action Research Interacting Spiral

- Think
- Look
- Act

Key characteristics of action research

- A practical focus
- The educator-researcher's own practices
- Collaboration
- Dynamic process
- A plan of action
- Sharing research

Practical focus

- A problem that will have immediate benefits for
 - Single teachers
 - Schools
 - Communities

Study of the educator-researcher's own practices

- **Self-reflective** research by the educator-researchers turns the lens on their own educational classroom, school, or practices.

Collaboration



A dynamic process

- Dynamic process of spiraling back and forth among reflection, data collection, and action
- Does not follow a linear pattern
- Does not follow a causal sequence from problem to action

A plan of action

- The action researcher develops a plan of action
- Formal or informal; involve a few individuals or an entire community
- May be presenting data to stakeholders, establishing a pilot program, or exploring new practices

Sharing research

- Groups of stakeholders
- Local schools, educational personnel
- Local or state individuals
- Not specifically interested in publication but in sharing with individuals or groups who can promote change

The problem is only one phase in which to enter


**Identifying
“Problem”**

**Collecting
Data**


**Evaluating
Existing
Data**

**Taking
Action**


**Point of
Entry**



**Point of
Entry**



**Point of
Entry**



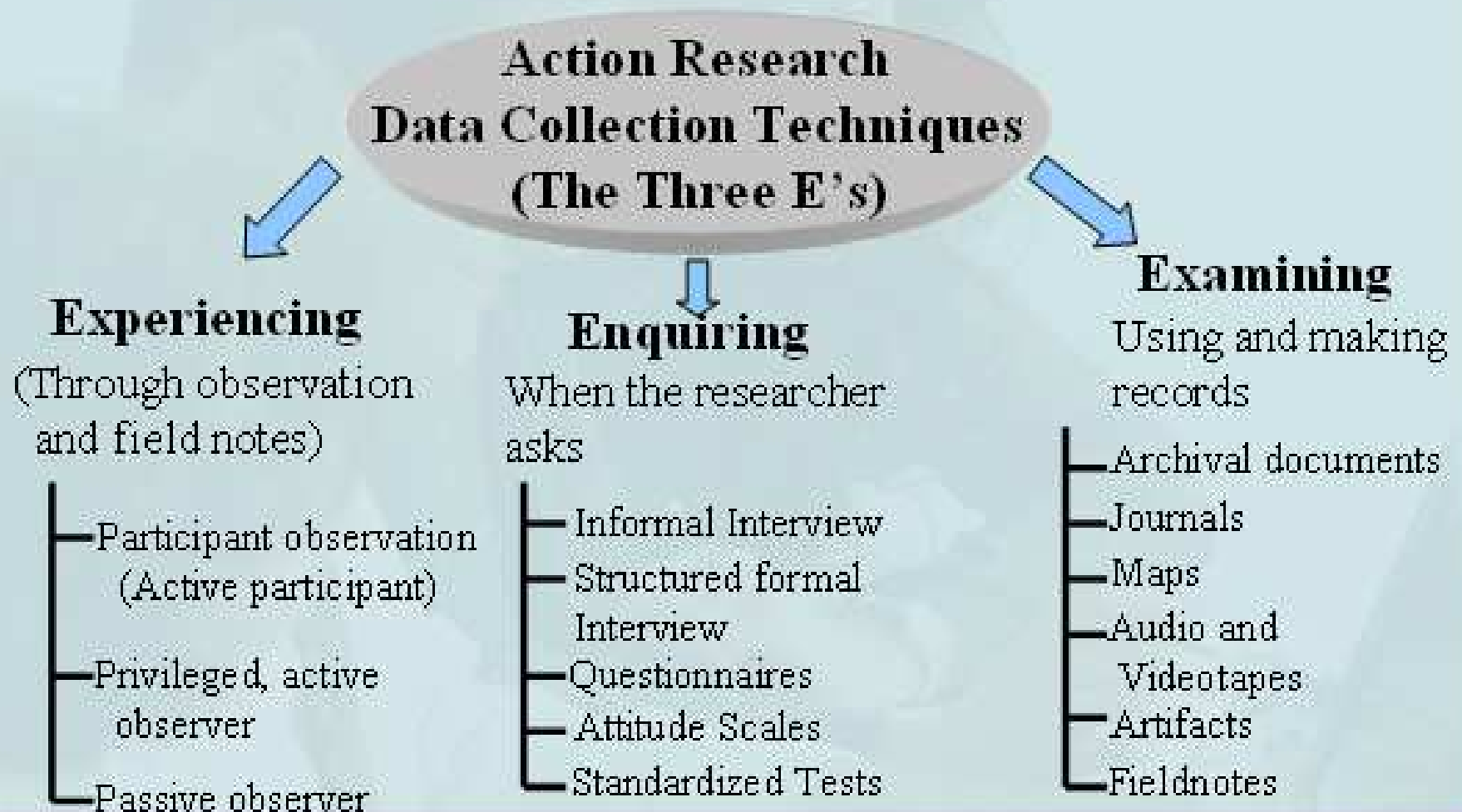
**Point of
Entry**



What are the steps in conducting action research?

- Determine if action research is the best design to use.
- Identify the problem to study
- Locate resources to help address the problem
- Identify the information you will need

Taxonomy of action research data collection techniques



What are the steps in conducting action research?

- Implement the data collection
- Analyze the data
- Develop a plan for action
- Implement the plan and reflect

How do you evaluate action research?

- Did the plan of action advanced by the researcher build logically from the data?
- Is there evidence that the plan of action contributed to the researcher's reflection as a professional?
- Has the research enhanced the lives of the participants by empowering them, changing them, or providing them with new understanding?

How do you evaluate action research?

- Did the action research actually lead to change or did a solution to a problem make the difference?
- Was the action research reported to audiences who might use the information?

- You should be ready now to pick a topic and start to formulate a purpose statement and a question.